

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 1-14.

Please add the following new claims:

--15. (New) A solid mixed metal compound, having phosphate binding capacity, and useful as a medicament, comprising the compound obtained as a precipitate from a solution of a mixture of metallic salts, free from aluminum, and containing iron (III) and at least one additional metal selected from the group consisting of magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium, said compound having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, as measured by any of the test methods 1, 2 or 3, as described in the specification, over a pH range of from 3 to 7.

16. (New) A solid mixed metal compound according to claim 15, having said phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight, over a pH range of from 2 to 8.

17. (New) A solid mixed metal compound according to claim 15 or claim 16, which contains hydroxyl ions and/or carbonate ions.

18. (New) A solid mixed metal compound according to claim 17, which further contains sulphate, chloride, oxide, or mixtures thereof.

19. (New) A solid mixed metal compound having phosphate binding capacity, and useful as a medicament, comprising a hydroxy carbonate containing iron (III) and magnesium metals, free from aluminum, and having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight, as measured by any of the test methods 1, 2 or 3, as described in the specification, over a pH range of 2 to 8.

20. (New) A method for treating hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, which comprises administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of the solid mixed metal compound of any one of claims 15, 16 or 19.

21. (New) A method for treatment of hyperphosphataemia, in an animal in need thereof, comprising administering to said animal, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound obtained by treating a metal sulphate selected from the group consisting of calcium sulphate, lanthanum sulphate and cerium sulphate, with an alkali solution, and recovering a solid material therefrom.

22. (New) A solid metal sulphate material, useful as a medicament, comprising at least one sulphate compound selected from the group consisting of calcium sulphate, lanthanum sulphate and cerium sulphate, treated with an aqueous solution of alkali metal hydroxide.

23. (New) A solid metal sulphate material according to claim 22, which has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30% by weight, as measured by any of the test methods 1, 2 or 3, as described in the specification, over a pH range of 2 to 8.

24. (New) A method for preparing a metal sulphate material which comprises treating a metal sulphate selected from the group consisting of calcium sulphate, lanthanum sulphate and cerium sulphate, with an alkali solution, and recovering a solid material therefrom.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein the metal sulphate is calcium sulphate.--

In the Abstract of the Disclosure:

Please insert the new Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

--A non-aluminum containing mixed metal compound for pharmaceutical use, which may, for example, be a mixed metal hydroxy carbonate containing magnesium and iron, and may have a hydrotalcite structure, preferably a non-aged hydrotalcite structure. Other metals, including, for example, calcium, lanthanum and cerium, may also be used. Metal sulphate compounds, especially calcium sulphate, lanthanum sulphate and/or cerium sulphate, compounds are also useful. The mixed metal compounds have a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, by weight, based on the test methods 1, 2 or 3, described in the specification,

over a pH range of from 3 to 7, such as from 2 to 8. The compound is especially useful in the treatment of hyperphosphataemia.--

*See the attached Appendix for the changes made to effect the above Abstract.*

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